

# STREET SMART

November 2, 2005

Governments  
**SANBAG**  
Working Together

## Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

San Bernardino Associated Governments ■ 1170 W. 3rd St., 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92410 ■ (909) 884-8276  
[www.sanbag.ca.gov](http://www.sanbag.ca.gov)

### ■ State advocacy efforts pay off for SANBAG

SANBAG had several state legislative victories during 2005, and transportation is expected to be in the forefront of debate statewide in the coming year, according to Mark Watts, a partner with Smith Watts & Company, which lobbies on behalf of SANBAG.



Proposition 42 was fully funded for the first time since its approval by voters in 2002, a significant milestone this past year. Prop. 42 provided \$1.5 billion for transportation funding across the state. A large backlog of projects prevented SANBAG from securing funding for projects this year, but the agency will be working with other transportation, business and labor groups throughout California to develop strategies for full funding of Prop. 42 again next year, Watts said.

The addition of \$2 million to the state budget for Freeway Service Patrol funding for San Bernardino County through Assembly Bill 2498 was another major hurdle. The funding will be part of the state's base budget, which will make funding of the program secure from this time forward.

Watts noted that the governor and Senate and Assembly leaders agreed in August to make transportation the top legislative priority in 2006. Schwarzenegger has assigned his staff to promote Go California, his effort to boost project delivery and funding. A state Goods Movement Action Plan, a proposed general obligation bond for transportation, and the outcome of Proposition 76 all are being watched closely to determine their impact on transportation.

He reminded the Board of Directors that the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), largely funded by state and federal gasoline excise taxes, is truly insufficient to fund infrastructure projects. Virtually all STIP funds will go to maintain the current system. The STIP, a five-year program, will be subject to annual budget whims, making it unreliable and leading to cost increases for projects.

### ■ SANBAG to seek proposals for signal coordination

SANBAG will be requesting proposals for construction management services for two projects to synchronize traffic signals in the San Bernardino Valley. The selected firms will oversee the coordination of 299 signals on major streets along Interstate 10 and Route 60 and the coordination of 294 signals on other major streets.

Construction likely will start this spring and take about six months to complete. Synchronized traffic signals reduce travel time and vehicle accidents.

### ■ Board awards tow contracts for Freeway Service Patrol

Help is coming soon for stranded motorists in the San Bernardino Valley, with the hiring of two tow truck firms to operate selected beats of the new Freeway Service Patrol this winter.

The Board of Directors awarded a three-year, \$1.5 million contract to Armada Transport for FSP service on Interstate 10 from the Los Angeles County line to Sierra Avenue in Fontana and on Interstate 15 from the Riverside County line to Baseline in Rancho Cucamonga.

Pepe's Towing received a three-year, \$578,000 contract to run the beat on Interstate 10 from Waterman Avenue in San Bernardino to Sierra Avenue.

The service is expected to start in January. Roving tow trucks will fix flat tires, perform minor repairs or tow vehicles from the freeway at no cost to motorists. The service will operate Monday through Friday during peak morning and afternoon commute hours.

Contracts will be awarded this winter for two additional beats that will begin in the spring.

### Down the road ...

- Nov. 8: Women's Transportation Seminar Reception to Welcome Caltrans District Director Mike Perovich, Riverside, 4-7 p.m.
- Nov. 9: Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
- Nov. 10: Major Projects Committee, 9 a.m.; Route 210 construction tour to follow
- Nov. 16: Plans & Programs Committee, 12 noon
- Nov. 17: Commuter Rail Committee, 12 noon
- Nov. 18: Mountain-Desert Committee, 9 a.m.

## CommuteSmart.info offers one-stop shop for travel

### Regional website offers handy tools for drivers, carpoolers, transit users

A commuter information website that debuted in January expanded this fall with new maps that show real-time traffic conditions throughout the Southland, including San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

The website, CommuteSmart.info, has a wealth of features to make life easier for daily commuters, vacation travelers, riders of mass transit and those who wish to share rides with others, explained Michelle Kirkhoff, SANBAG's Director of Air Quality of Mobility Programs.

"The site provides a one-stop shop for traffic information and ridesharing," she said.



In addition, the maps show views from Caltrans freeway cameras in the Inland Empire and include the text of changeable message signs, such as Amber Alerts. In other Southland areas, the maps show freeway speeds and estimated travel times between freeway sections.

#### Commuting Help

But wait, there's more! Commuters can get help with finding carpool or vanpool partners through a database of more than 400,000 people in Southern

#### Website Formation

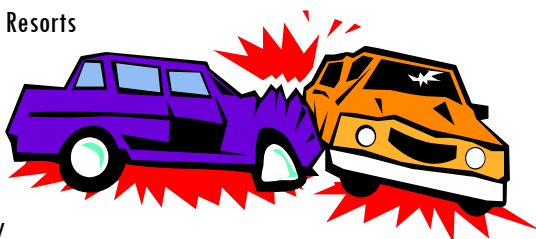
County transportation agencies from San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura discussed the idea of a regional commuting website in September 2004 and launched the site in January. The site was developed through a partnership between the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and the Riverside County Transportation Commission.

In September 2005, CommuteSmart.info was upgraded with maps that cover a larger geographical area, including the Cajon Pass, San Bernardino mountain resorts and the desert regions to the Nevada and Arizona borders. These areas are especially sensitive to weather and recreational travel conditions, so it was important to include them, Kirkhoff said.

#### Traffic Map Features

One of the most popular features of the website is its traffic updates, which provide real-time traffic information. The maps show accidents, lane closures and other "live" traffic problems for 11 areas:

- San Bernardino/Riverside Counties
- Cajon Pass
- San Bernardino Mountain Resorts
- Coachella Valley
- South Riverside County
- Orange County
- Los Angeles County
- City of El Segundo/LAX
- North Los Angeles County
- San Diego County
- Ventura County



California. By entering basic information about daily commute patterns, solo drivers can find themselves ridesharing in no time.

Those who prefer to travel by rail or by bus — for work or for recreation — can check out the Bus/Rail Planner section of the website. Using a route planner developed by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, riders simply enter their destination, time and day of travel and several other parameters, and the site will create a suggested customized route for trips all over the region.

Further, people who rideshare can learn about rebates and other incentives that they can receive for carpooling, vanpooling, taking mass transit or cycling to work. For example, in San Bernardino County, those who rideshare can earn \$2 per day for the first three months.

#### Lots, Lanes & Links

CommuteSmart.info also has a listing and map of Park & Ride lots by city and by county. In addition, the site includes a map of existing carpool lanes and carpool lanes that are under construction and explains the benefits and policies of using these lanes. Links also are in place to Caltrans roadwork advisories in San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange and Los Angeles counties.